

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, and for the indication that claims 7-9, 12 and 13 are allowed.

Applicant submits that the instant amendment is proper for entry after final rejection. Applicant notes that no question of new matter nor are any new issues raised in entering the instant amendment of the claims and that no new search would be required.

Moreover, Applicant submits that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner enter the instant amendment, consider the merits of the same, and indicate the allowability of the present application and each of the pending claims.

Upon entry of the above amendments claims 1 and 5 will have been amended. Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of the claims pending in the present application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 2002-250388 ("JP '388") in view of Korean Patent Publication No. 2002-045110 ("KR '110").

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of the claims on these grounds, nevertheless, Applicant has amended

independent claims 1 and 5 to clearly obviate the above-noted grounds of rejection in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. In this regard, Applicant notes that both JP '388 and KR '110 fail to teach or suggest the combination of elements as recited in amended claims 1 and 5. In particular, claim 1 as amended, sets forth a damper assembly of a glove box including, inter alia, a damper having a fitting piece extending from one exterior side thereof, the fitting protrusion being fitted in the fitting piece of the damper so that the damper is fixed to the fixing member, wherein the fitting piece is positioned on the fitting protrusion such that the outer circumference of the damper is positioned on one side of the fitting protrusion.

Applicant submits that JP '388 and KR '110, alone or in any proper combination, lack any disclosure of the aforementioned features.

The Examiner cites to JP '388, Figures 1, 2 and 4, as purportedly disclosing a fixing member fixed to the rear part of the glove box (the Official Action, page 2, paragraph 2). However, the construction of the fixing member as disclosed in JP '388 is very different structurally from a feature of an embodiment of the present disclosure. In this regard, the fixing member (4) disclosed in JP' 388 is fixed within the opening (8) of the damper (2). Therefore, an outer circumference of the damper (2) surrounds the fitting member (4, Fig. 2). Thus, JP '388 does not disclose a damper having a fitting piece extending from one exterior side thereof, a fitting protrusion being fitted in the fitting piece of the damper so that the damper is fixed to a fixing member, wherein the fitting piece is

positioned on the fitting protrusion such that an outer circumference of the damper is positioned on one side of the fitting protrusion.

Further, the Examiner relies on KR '110 as purportedly teaching a damper being made of plastic. However, even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of JP '388 and KR '110, have been properly combined; the proposed combination still would not have resulted in the features of the embodiments of the present disclosure, as recited in amended claim 1.

Applicant further submits that independent claim 5, as amended, is similar to independent claim 1 in that it recites, inter alia, a damper having a fitting piece extending from one exterior side of the damper, the fitting protrusion being fitted in the fitting piece of the damper so that the damper is directly fixed to the fixing member without a further fixing structure fixing the fixing member to the damper, wherein the fitting piece is positioned on the fitting protrusion such that an outer circumference of the damper is positioned on one side of the fitting protrusion. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 5 is also allowable for reasons similar to claim 1 as noted-above. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4- 6 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is no longer proper for all the above reasons and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments herein, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 5 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 10 and 11 Applicant asserts that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because they depend from independent claims 1 and 5 which Applicant has shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

SUMMARY

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicant has argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied reference. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Keun-chul KIM



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William E. Lyddane
Reg. No. 41,568

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191